

Adopted CJPC Recommendations
as of 5/4/2016

Bruce Caswell

Recommendation approved at the September 2, 2015 CJPC Meeting:

1. "In order to properly inform the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission, it is necessary to have a robust centralized data collection system. The Commission believes that data must be collected from prisons, jails, probation departments, parole systems, community corrections, courts, juvenile justice, law enforcement arrest data, and specialty courts. The building of this system must meet the requirements of the Headlee amendment. Information in this system must be accessible by the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Supreme Court Administrators Office, and other pertinent entities. Based on this information, we respectfully encourage the legislature to review the data when formulating new criminal justice legislation."

Recommendations approved at October 7, 2015 CJPC Meeting:

2. "It is the recommendation of the Commission that no immediate action be taken pursuant to the changes brought about by the Lockridge decision of the Michigan Supreme Court. It is the recommendation of the Commission that data on sentencing, community placement, and prison entries be tracked to determine changes that may be occurring because of this decision and to develop Commission recommendations as needed to modify the guidelines."
3. "It is recommended by the Criminal Justice Policy Commission that sentencing guidelines be kept as the best method for reducing disparity, increasing sentence predictability, and promoting proportionality, while continuing to be transparent. The current guidelines have reduced sentence disparities and increased predictability across the state since their adoption. It is important that the Commission be retained so that continuing research on this issue may be enhanced and presented to the legislature for their discussion."
4. "It is the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission to establish a subcommittee to examine and analyze the data elements outlined in the governing statute. Data elements included in the statute include use of jails/prisons, sentencing patterns at the local level (including misdemeanors), effectiveness of sentencing guidelines, and recidivism (e.g. re-arrest, returns to prison). Once these elements have been examined, the subcommittee can expand its functions to include the analysis of other aspects of the criminal justice system (e.g. juvenile justice, specialty courts, prosecuting attorneys, criminal defense, mental health, and substance abuse). In the process of examination and analysis the subcommittee will identify any areas lacking information that would be needed by the Commission to recommend sound public policy options to the legislature and Governor."

Recommendations Approved at January 6, 2016 CJPC Meeting

5. "In order to provide the legislature and Governor with an accurate evidence-based analysis of the criminal justice system in an on-going manner, the Criminal Justice Policy Commission makes the following recommendation: It is recommended that the legislature fund on-going research, data

collection, and data system implementation activities in the amount of \$500,000 for the Criminal Justice Policy Commission. This will enable the Commission to provide the legislature and Governor with on-going research and analysis of all facets of the criminal justice system for their use in establishing legislation. It is further recommended that this funding be separate from the Michigan Department of Corrections budget.”

6. “It is the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission that the Commission track and analyze data for three different measures of recidivism—re-arrest recidivism, re-conviction recidivism, and re-incarceration recidivism in prison or jail of an individual within three (3) and five (5) years of their release from incarceration, or placement on probation, or conviction, whichever is later. All measures of recidivism are to include probation and parole violations as well as misdemeanors and felonies. It is further recommended that data on technical violators be collected separately from new crime violators. “

Recommendation Approved at the February 3, 2016 CJPC Meeting

7. “It is the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission that monies should be more equitably distributed between evidence-based programs to serve the parole and probation populations. Evidence-based programs designed to help these populations are quite different in each programmatic area and need to be funded for success. Appropriately funded evidence-based programs that result in success for probationers have the potential to save the taxpayers significant money by avoiding the high cost of incarceration while effectively preventing crimes. Evidence-based programs must be evaluated utilizing an objective evaluation tool that measures both process and outcomes to determine effective programming that will result in reducing the number of those who recidivate.”

Recommendation Approved at May 4, 2016 CJPC Meeting

8. “The Criminal Justice Policy Commission feels that each citizen bears personal responsibility for his/her actions. The citizens of this state have a right to impose punishment on those negative actions that impact the well-being of individuals and safety of our communities through the criminal justice system, with the goal being to prevent crime and hold individuals responsible for their actions. As a result, punishment (e.g. fines, diversion, supervision, confinement) is a component of the criminal justice system, but this punishment must be commensurate with the impact of the negative actions, and should be consistent for offenders committing similar crimes with similar criminal histories.

In addition, the Criminal Justice Policy Commission also recognizes that society in general will benefit if the perpetrators of crime can be rehabilitated, and, as a result, not return to a life of crime when released from probation, jail or prison. Evidence-based options and tools for rehabilitation should be available throughout the criminal justice continuum, from arrest through discharge from supervision.”